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24 JAN 1969
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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
VIA : Deputy Director for Plans
SUBJECT : The Wessel Plan to Exploit the Prisoner
Exchange

1. Attached is a letter to General Gerhard Wessel for your signature.

2. The letter comments briefly on the Wessel plan to exploit the prisoner exchange involving Heinz Felfe.

3. Attached for your release is a cable to Ray Cline which contains detailed Headquarters comments on the Wessel plan.

Chief,
European Division

Attachments:

1. Letter to Wessel
2. Cable to C []

cc: DDCI

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Dear Gene:

From Dr. Ray Cline and ☐ I have received the full details of the EMD plan involving Tolfo's apparent change of heart on the prisoner exchange. I appreciate very much your having discussed this matter in detail with us.

There are inherent in the scheme attractive short-term advantages: certainly, we all wish to see the repatriation of the prisoners now in communist jails, but we have significant doubts that the EMD plan might cause Random's box and unless problems which could plague us for years to come. I have outlined our views on this matter in detail for Dr. Cline and have urged him to discuss them with you soon.

I very much regret that we cannot support you in this plan.

Sincerely,

☐ Richard Helms
Director

cc: EMDI

Signature Recommended:

24 JAN 1969

Director for Plans

EMD/IR ☐ (24 January 1968)

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